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Agenda item 54 (a)

Globalization and interdependence

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/60/490, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at its 25th and 37th meetings, on 9 November and 15 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.25 and 37).

II. Draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.12 and A/C.2/60/L.71

2. At the 25th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence" (A/C.2/60/L.12). The draft resolution read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 53/169 of 15 December 1998, 54/231 of 22 December 1999, 55/212 of 20 December 2000, 56/209 of 21 December 2001, 57/274 of 20 December 2002, 58/225 of 23 December 2003 and 59/240 of 22 December 2004 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,
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> "*Recalling also* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in five parts, under the symbol A/60/490 and Add.1-4.

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"*Recalling further* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Reaffirming* the resolve expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for the people of the world,

"*Recognizing* that globalization and interdependence have opened new opportunities for the growth of the world economy and development, that globalization offers new perspectives for the integration of developing countries into the world economy and that it can improve the overall performance of the economies of developing countries by opening up market opportunities for their exports, by promoting the transfer of information, skills and technology and by increasing the financial resources available for investment in physical and intangible assets, acknowledging that globalization has also brought new challenges for growth and sustainable development and that developing countries have been facing special difficulties in responding to them, recognizing that some countries have successfully adapted to the changes and benefited from globalization but that many others, especially the least developed countries, have remained marginalized in the globalizing world economy, and recognizing also that, as stated in the Millennium Declaration, the benefits and costs of globalization are very unevenly distributed,

"*Reaffirming* the commitment to eradicate hunger and poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all and to promoting the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization,

"*Reaffirming also* the significant importance of an open, universal, equitable, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory and balanced multilateral trading system in pursuit of sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development,

"*Taking note* of the adoption of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-third session, and noting that the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity is the key to sustainable human development, as a contribution to a fair globalization,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reaffirms* the commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, to mobilize domestic resources, attract international flows, promote international trade as an engine for development and increase international financial and technical cooperation for development, sustainable debt financing and external debt relief and to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems;

"3. *Reaffirms also* that good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development and that, in order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries, and to this effect calls on the international community to take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing the market access of developing countries;

"4. *Reaffirms further* that each country has primary responsibility for its own development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development and that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

"5. *Stresses* that, in the increasingly globalizing interdependent world economy, a holistic approach to the interconnected national, international and systemic challenges of financing for development, namely, sustainable, gender-sensitive and people-centred development, is essential in order to open up opportunities for all and to ensure that resources are created and used effectively and that solid and accountable institutions are established at all levels;

"6. *Stresses also* that development strategies have to be formulated with a view to minimizing the negative social impact of globalization and maximizing its positive impact, while ensuring that all groups of the population, in particular the poorest, benefit from it, and that at the international level, efforts have to converge on the means to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"7. *Stresses further* the special importance of creating an enabling international economic environment through strong cooperative efforts by all countries and institutions to promote equitable economic development in a world economy that benefits all people, and in that context invites developed countries, in particular the major industrialized countries, which have significant weight in influencing world economic growth, when formulating their macroeconomic policies, to take into account whether the effects of those policies in terms of the external economic environment would be favourable to the growth and development of developing countries;

"8. *Underlines* the fact that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, i.e. the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations, that it is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of

accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space and that it is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments;

"9. *Also underlines* the fact that, in addressing the linkages between globalization and sustainable development, particular focus must be placed on identifying and implementing policies and practices that advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection, taking into account the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and that facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms, which, as mutually agreed, is essential for sustainable development;

"10. *Reaffirms* the central role of the United Nations in the promotion of international cooperation for development and enhancing the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community and in strengthening coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial trade and development institutions in order to support sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development;

"11. *Reaffirms also* the commitment to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, and to that end calls for advancing the efforts to reform the international financial architecture, especially the ongoing efforts to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions, taking into account the progress in the context of the International Monetary Fund quota review;

"12. *Emphasizes* the significant importance of fulfilling the development dimension of the Doha development agenda, which places the needs and interest of developing countries, including the least developed countries, at the heart of the Doha work programme, while reiterating the important role that enhanced market access, balanced rules and well-targeted, sustainable financed technical assistance and capacity-building programmes can play in the economic development of those countries, and calls for the fullest realization of the Doha Work Programme and the decision taken by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 1 August 2004 underlining that special attention shall be given to specific trade and development needs and concerns of developing countries, including special and differential treatment and implementation issues, and to the successful completion of the Doha round of trade negotiations in 2006;

"13. *Stresses* the importance of building a people-centred and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide, putting the potential of information and communication technologies at the service of development and addressing new

challenges of the information society, and in this regard calls for the implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and ensuring the success of the second phase of the Summit;

"14. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular the organizations of the United Nations system, and invites the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral development organizations to promote the integration of the development dimension, in their policies and programmes;

"15. *Calls upon* the organs and bodies of the United Nations, and invites the organizations of the United Nations system, to consider, within their mandates, the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization entitled 'A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All', invites relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral bodies to provide information to the Secretary-General on their activities to promote an inclusive and equitable globalization, and also calls upon Member States to consider the report;

"16. *Stresses* the importance of migration as a phenomenon accompanying increased globalization, including its impact on economies, and underlines further the need for greater coordination and cooperation among countries as well as relevant regional and international organizations in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impact;

"17. *Emphasizes* the need for actions at the global level that allow developing countries to take advantage of new technologies as well as harness their own technological capacities, including by ensuring that the intellectual property rights regime is development-oriented and enables technological diffusion and adaptation;

"18. *Stresses* the need to promote corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the improvement of voluntary international instruments and appropriate national regulations in order to help increase the contribution of corporate actors, especially transnational corporations, to the advancement of development goals, while recognizing that within their respective spheres of action, corporate actors, especially transnational corporations, have an important role in supporting technology transfer, supplier linkages and the provision of access to export markets for developing countries;

"19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the agenda item entitled 'Globalization and interdependence'."

3. At its 37th meeting, on 15 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence" (A/C.2/60/L.71), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Juraj Koudelka (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.12.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Azerbaijan, in her capacity as facilitator, made the following corrections to the draft resolution:

(a) Operative paragraph 19, which read:

> 19. *Calls upon* the organs and bodies of the United Nations, and invites the organizations of the United Nations system, to consider, within their mandates, the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization entitled "A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All", and also calls on Member States to consider the report;

was deleted and the following paragraphs renumbered accordingly.

(b) In operative paragraph 22, the words "communication technologies" were corrected to read "communications technology".

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.71, as orally corrected (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.12 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/169 of 15 December 1998, 54/231 of 22 December 1999, 55/212 of 20 December 2000, 56/209 of 21 December 2001, 57/274 of 20 December 2002, 58/225 of 23 December 2003 and 59/240 of 22 December 2004 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Reaffirming the resolve expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence have opened new opportunities for the growth of the world economy and development, that globalization offers new perspectives for the integration of developing countries into the world economy and that it can improve the overall performance of the economies of developing countries by opening up market opportunities for their exports, by promoting the transfer of information, skills and technology and by increasing the financial resources available for investment in physical and intangible assets, acknowledging that globalization has also brought new challenges for growth and sustainable development and that developing countries have been facing special difficulties in responding to them, recognizing that some countries have successfully adapted to the changes and benefited from globalization but that many others, especially the least developed countries, have remained marginalized in the globalizing world economy, and recognizing also that, as stated in the Millennium Declaration, the benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed,

Recognizing also that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recognizing further that an enabling economic environment should, inter alia, foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector and include efforts to further promote good corporate and public-sector governance, to combat corruption in the public and private sectors and to promote the strengthening of and respect for the rule of law,

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

Noting that particular attention must be given, in the context of globalization, to the objective of protecting, promoting and enhancing the rights and welfare of women and girls, as stated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[3]

Noting also that an overall commitment to multiculturalism helps to provide an environment for preventing and combating discrimination and promoting solidarity and tolerance in our societies,

Noting further the ongoing work on cultural diversity in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Reaffirming the commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all and to promote the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization,

Reaffirming also its strong support for fair globalization and its resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and that these measures should also encompass the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, as defined in International Labour Organization Convention No. 182, and forced labour, and resolving to ensure full respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work,

Reaffirming further the commitment to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, and to that end stressing the importance of continuing efforts to reform the international financial architecture, and noting that enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions remains a continuing concern,

Reaffirming its commitment to governance, equity and transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and its commitment to open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial systems,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Reaffirms* the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community, and resolves to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development;

3. *Reaffirms also* that good governance is essential for sustainable development; that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] A/60/322.

to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation; and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, and the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

4. *Reaffirms further* that good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving sustainable development, that, in order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries, and that to this effect the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support for structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing the market access of developing countries;

5. *Reaffirms* that each country has primary responsibility for its own development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development and that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty;

6. *Recognizes*, at the same time, that domestic economies are now interwoven with the global economic system and that, inter alia, the effective use of trade and investment opportunities can help countries to fight poverty;

7. *Stresses* that, in the increasingly globalizing interdependent world economy, a holistic approach to the interconnected national, international and systemic challenges of financing for development, namely, sustainable, gender-sensitive and people-centred development, is essential and that such an approach must open up opportunities for all and help to ensure that resources are created and used effectively and that solid and accountable institutions are established at all levels;

8. *Stresses also* that development strategies have to be formulated with a view to minimizing the negative social impact of globalization and maximizing its positive impact, while striving to ensure that all groups of the population, in particular the poorest, benefit from it, and that at the international level, efforts should focus on the means to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Stresses further* that in the common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity, while a crucial task is to enhance the efficacy, coherence and consistency of macroeconomic policies and an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of

international investment and assistance, and in this regard stresses also that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

10. *Stresses* the special importance of creating an enabling international economic environment through strong cooperative efforts by all countries and institutions to promote equitable economic development in a world economy that benefits all people;

11. *Invites* developed countries, in particular major industrialized economies, to take into account the effect of their macroeconomic policies on international growth and development;

12. *Underlines* the fact that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, i.e., the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations, that it is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space and that it is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments;

13. *Underlines also* that in addressing the linkages between globalization and sustainable development, particular focus should be placed on identifying and implementing mutually reinforcing policies and practices that promote sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection and that this requires efforts at both the national and international levels;

14. *Underlines further* that the issue of enhancing the voice of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Bretton Woods institutions is of vital importance, stresses the importance of advancing ongoing work in this regard, taking into account progress in the context of the International Monetary Fund quota review, and invites the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to continue to provide information on this issue, using existing cooperation forums, including those involving Member States;

15. *Reaffirms* the commitments made in the Doha Ministerial Declaration[5] and the decision of the World Trade Organization General Council of 1 August 2004 to fulfilling the development dimensions of the Doha Development Agenda, which places the needs and interests of developing and least developed countries at the heart of the Doha work programme,[5] and calls for the successful and timely completion of the Doha round of trade negotiations with the fullest realization of the development dimensions of the Doha work programme, and looks to the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Hong Kong, China, from 13 to 18 December 2005, to constitute an important milestone to this end;

16. *Stresses* the importance of building a people-centred and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to

[5] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

help bridge the digital divide, putting the potential of information and communication technologies at the service of development and addressing new challenges of the information society, and in this regard calls for the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;[6]

17. *Reaffirms* that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities, stresses the importance of continuing efforts in this regard, and invites the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the regional development banks and other relevant institutions to further integrate development dimensions into their strategies and policies, consistent with their respective mandates;

18. *Reaffirms also* that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and United Nations conferences, and that investing in the development of women and girls has a multiplier effect, in particular on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, in all sectors of economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services;

19. *Invites* relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral bodies to provide information to the Secretary-General on their activities to promote an inclusive and equitable globalization;

20. *Stresses* the importance of migration as a phenomenon accompanying increased globalization, including its impact on economies, and underlines further the need for greater coordination and cooperation among countries as well as relevant regional and international organizations;

21. *Recognizes* that science and technology, including information and communications technology, are vital for the achievement of the development goals and that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advancements and enhance their productive capacity, and in this regard reaffirms the commitment to promoting and facilitating, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

22. *Recognizes also* the special needs of the least developed countries, the small island developing States, and the landlocked developing countries within the new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries, as contained in the Almaty Programme of Action,[7] and reaffirms continued support and assistance for their endeavours, particularly in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[2] and the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-

[6] See A/C.2/59/3.

[7] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

2010,[8] the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[9] and the Almaty Programme of Action;

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization, with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

24. *Recognizes* that the contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in national development efforts, as well as in the promotion of the global partnership for development, should be enhanced;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the agenda item entitled "Globalization and interdependence".

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[8] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

[9] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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Globalization and interdependence: science and technology for development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/60/490, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 25th and 35th meetings, on 9 November and 13 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.25 and 35).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.17 and A/C.2/60/L.59

2. At the 25th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Jamaica (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/60/L.17), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recognizing* the vital role that science, technology and innovation can play in development and in facilitating the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, accelerate the pace of diversification and transformation and improve productivity and competitiveness,
>
> "*Recalling* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

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"*Emphasizing* the importance of international support to developing countries to enable them to benefit from technological advances and to enhance their productive capacity,

"*Underscoring* the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

"*Recognizing* the catalysing role of information and communication technologies in promoting and facilitating the achievement of all development goals, and in this regard stressing the importance of the contribution of the World Summit on the Information Society process to the building of a people-centred, balanced and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide,

"*Acknowledging with appreciation* the role played by the International Telecommunication Union in the organization of the two phases of the World Summit and the useful contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the preparatory process of the Summit,

"*Welcoming* the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme, calling for the intensification of ongoing efforts to mobilize resources for its expeditious implementation, and requesting to be kept informed of its implementation,

"*Noting with appreciation* the hosting of the second World Information Technology Forum by Botswana, from 31 August to 2 September 2005, in Gaborone,

"*Acknowledging* the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries to benefit from the potential of information and communication technologies,

"*Noting with appreciation* the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during its intersessional period 2004-2005 on 'Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration', in particular, the recommendation to facilitate the establishment of a network of centres of excellence in developing countries that would connect existing outstanding scientific and technological institutions from developing countries to serve as hubs of learning and conduits for the transfer and diffusion of scientific knowledge and information in new and emerging technologies,

"*Welcoming* the selection by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development of the substantive theme 'Bridging the technology gap between and within nations' for its work during the intersessional period 2005-2006,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development,

"*Taking note also* of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development publication *The Digital Divide: ICT Development Indices 2004*,

"*Re-emphasizing* the need to strengthen the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

"*Emphasizing* that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is the key intergovernmental body on science and technology and in contributing to the follow-up process to all relevant United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"1. *Agrees to*:

"(a) Strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

"(b) Promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

"(c) Assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

"(d) Promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy;

"(e) Implement policies at international and national levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

"(f) Support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

"2. *Invites* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to contribute, within its mandate, to the follow-up and implementation of the measures on science and technology contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome;

"3. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to explore initiatives aimed at addressing the special needs of the developing countries in areas such as agriculture, information and communication technologies and environmental management;

"4. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in national development strategies;

"5. *Recognizes* the contribution of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and its affiliated centres as well as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations

Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the area of biotechnology, and encourages these and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology to collaborate with a view to enhancing effectiveness in the implementation of programmes designed to assist developing countries in building productive capacity in all areas of biotechnology, including for industry and agriculture, as well as for risk assessment and management of biosafety;

"6. *Stresses* the need to address new challenges of the information society by implementing the outcomes of the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society and ensuring the success of the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis, from 16 to 18 November 2005, to enable the developing countries to harness the potential of ICT for development;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 35th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" (A/C.2/60/L.59), submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Juraj Koudelka (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.17.

4. Also at the 35th meeting, the representative of Austria, as facilitator, introduced the following corrections:

(a) A new first preambular paragraph was inserted reading:

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003 and 59/220 of 22 December 2004,"

(b) In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "and recalling the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action adopted at Geneva on 12 December 2003 at the first phase of the Summit," were revised to read: "and recalling the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action of the first phase of the Summit,"

(c) In the twelfth preambular paragraph, quotation marks were placed around the words "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration";

(d) A paragraph was inserted after the thirteenth preambular paragraph reading: "*Taking note also* of the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.59, as orally corrected (see para. 7).

6. Also at the same meeting, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003 and 59/220 of 22 December 2004,

Recognizing the vital role that science and technology can play in development and in facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation and improve productivity and competitiveness,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and can enhance their productive capacity,

Underscoring the role that traditional knowledge can play in technological development and in the sustainable management and use of natural resources,

Recognizing the catalysing role of information and communication technologies in promoting and facilitating the achievement of all development goals, and in this regard stressing the importance of the contribution of the World Summit on the Information Society process to the building of a people-centred, balanced and inclusive information society so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people in order to help bridge the digital divide,

Welcoming the Tunis Commitment[2] and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society[3] of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, and recalling the Geneva Declaration of Principles[4] and the Geneva Plan of Action[5] of the first phase of the Summit,

Acknowledging with appreciation the role played by the International Telecommunication Union in the organization of the two phases of the World Summit,

Welcoming the adoption of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of the United Nations Environment Programme,[6]

Noting with appreciation the hosting of the second World Information Technology Forum by Botswana from 31 August to 2 September 2005 in Gaborone,

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[1] Resolution 60/1.
[2] WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/7-E.
[3] WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev.1)-E.
[4] A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I, sect. A.
[5] Ibid., sect. B.
[6] UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

Acknowledging the urgent need to bridge the digital divide and to assist developing countries to benefit from the potential of information and communication technologies,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during its intersessional period 2004-2005 on the theme "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration", in particular, the recommendation to facilitate the establishment of a network of centres of excellence in developing countries[7] with a view to allowing scientists and engineers to interact with each other and make use of state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities offered by those centres,

Taking note of the selection by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development of the substantive theme "Bridging the technology gap between and within nations" for its work during the intersessional period 2005-2006,[7]

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development,[8]

Taking note further of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development publication, *The Digital Divide: ICT Development Indices 2004*,[9]

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system,

Taking note with interest of the establishment of the inter-agency cooperation network in biotechnology, UN-Biotech, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,[8]

1. *Affirms* its commitment to:

(a) Strengthen and enhance existing mechanisms and to support initiatives for research and development, including through voluntary partnerships between the public and private sectors, to address the special needs of developing countries in the areas of health, agriculture, conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental management, energy, forestry and the impact of climate change;

(b) Promote and facilitate, as appropriate, access to and development, transfer and diffusion of technologies, including environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, to developing countries;

(c) Assist developing countries in their efforts to promote and develop national strategies for human resources and science and technology, which are primary drivers of national capacity-building for development;

(d) Promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal energy;

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[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 11* (E/2005/31), chap. I, sect. A.

[8] A/60/184.

[9] UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2005/4, United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2005.

(e) Implement policies at the national and international levels to attract both public and private investment, domestic and foreign, that enhances knowledge, transfers technology on mutually agreed terms and raises productivity;

(f) Support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum to address within its mandate the special needs of the developing countries in areas such as agriculture, rural development, information and communication technologies and environmental management;

3. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate science, technology and innovation policies in national development strategies;

4. *Recognizes* the contribution of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and its affiliated centres as well as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the area of biotechnology, and encourages those and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology to collaborate with a view to enhancing effectiveness in the implementation of programmes designed to assist developing countries in building capacity in all areas of biotechnology, including for industry and agriculture, as well as for risk assessment and management of biosafety;

5. *Reiterates* its request to the secretary-general of the World Summit on the Information Society to transmit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session the report of the Summit;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/60/490/Add.3

General Assembly

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Original: Arabic

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 54 (c)

Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/60/490, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 25th, 37th and 38th meetings, on 9 November and 15 and 16 December. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.25, 37 and 38).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.15 and Rev.1

2. At the 25th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of Algeria, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, Italy, the Philippines, Spain and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Remittances" (A/C.2/60/L.15), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions that highlight the development dimension of international migration, in particular resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004, as well as its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 58/190 of 22 December 2003 and 58/208 of 23 December 2003,
>
> "*Recognizing* that remittances flows constitute an important aspect of international migration, with significant impacts on the economies of recipient countries,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in five parts, under the symbol A/60/490 and Add.1-4.

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"*Recognizing also* that remittances have been increasing steadily around the world and represent an important source of capital for many developing countries and economies in transition,

"*Acknowledging* that remittances provide a source of financing for developing countries, bringing foreign exchange with no liability and complementing domestic savings, thereby constituting an important basis for capital accumulation, development and poverty alleviation,

"*Recognizing* that, while recent initiatives by relevant stakeholders have led to progress in facilitating and reducing the costs of remittances transfers, the costs incurred by migrants remain high and could be reduced,

"*Noting* the fact that many migrants deprived of access to regular financial services resort to informal means of remittances transfers, which are often less transparent and secure means to transfer funds that could be diverted into illicit activities and tend to be more expensive,

"*Taking into consideration* that remittances constitute private sources of capital and therefore Governments in both developed and developing countries should improve their regulatory measures to favour their flow,

"1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to further review the impact of remittances transfers on the economies of recipient countries, in particular with regard to their role in poverty alleviation, as well as of recent practices and initiatives that could serve as best practices for further action;

"2. *Calls upon* Governments to promote regulations that favour market-friendly remittances flows in a substantive manner and with due consideration to the need to promote a comprehensive response that includes a balanced approach between the goals of fighting the funding of illicit activities, including the financing of terrorism, and facilitating remittances transfers;

"3. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to pursue measures destined to facilitate access to banks and financial institutions in source countries of remittances, including consular identification and financial literacy campaigns, and invites countries to favour the establishment of sound and credible financial systems that could therefore provide a basis for financial inclusion;

"4. *Invites* Governments and the private sector to pursue financial innovation as a means of fostering the productive use of remittances through microcredit schemes, interest-bearing accounts and other financial instruments;

"5. *Encourages* Governments to promote competition in the market of remittances transfers, in both developed and developing countries, therefore allowing for the operation of a bigger number of agents in the market;

"6. *Encourages* all stakeholders to consider ways of allowing for further publicizing of the practices, products and fees of financial institutions and other money transfer operators so as to provide all appropriate information on the market;

"7. *Invites* Governments to use more efficiently current statistics systems with regard to remittances flows, on the understanding that the

provision of reliable data would be of great importance to fully grasp the economic consequences of remittances and maximize their impact on development;

"8. *Encourages* the conclusion of agreements between financial institutions in source and recipient countries, which could encompass the provision of technical assistance to small financial institutions in recipient countries."

3. At its 37th meeting, on 15 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances" (A/C.2/60/L.15/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.15. Subsequently, Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Ukraine and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

4. Also at the 37th meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.15/Rev.1 (see para. 15, draft resolution I).

B. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.16 and A/C.2/60/L.62

6. At the 25th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/60/L.16), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Recalling further* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,

"1. *Decides* that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006;

"2. *Urges* Member States to participate in the High-level Dialogue at the ministerial level;

"3. *Decides* that the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, shall participate in the High-level Dialogue;

"4. *Invites* relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes as well as the International Organization for Migration, to contribute to the preparation of and to participate in the High-level Dialogue, which will be

open to those intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly in accordance with the rules of procedure;

"5. *Decides* that the High-level Dialogue will consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive round tables;

"6. *Also decides* that the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations will make introductory statements at the opening of the High-level Dialogue;

"7. *Further decides* that the High-level Dialogue will discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;

"8. *Decides* that the round tables will be open to all Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration as well as to other relevant regional and international intergovernmental organizations that have observer status, and also decides that the round tables will be organized as follows:

"(a) The first set of the two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the afternoon of the first day;

"(b) The second set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the morning of the second day;

"(c) Summaries of the deliberations of the four round-table sessions will be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round-table sessions during the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue;

"9. *Also decides* that the themes for each of the four round tables will be the following:

"(a) Round table 1 will focus on the impacts of international migration on economic and social development;

"(b) Round table 2 will focus on measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and members of their families;

"(c) Round table 3 will focus on promoting international cooperation including building partnerships for the benefit of countries and migrants alike, and optimizing the role of regional consultative processes;

"(d) Round table 4 will focus on the role of the United Nations system in enhancing coordination and collaboration on international migration and development;

"10. *Further decides* to hold informal interactive hearings in June/July 2006 with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, to be presided over by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings prior to the High-level Dialogue in September 2006;

"11. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly will determine the list of invited participants and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector;

"12. *Also decides* that representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping, selected during the informal interactive hearings, may also participate in each of the round tables of the High-level Dialogue, and decides that the President of the General Assembly will determine the list of such representatives, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, in consultation with Member States;

"13. *Further decides* that arrangements concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector in the High-level Dialogue will in no way create a precedent for other meetings of the General Assembly;

"14. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education, as a substantive input for the High-level Dialogue;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to address in his comprehensive report the issue of short-term movement of service providers and its impact in sending and receiving countries;

"16. *Encourages* the regional commissions to facilitate dialogue at the regional level in preparation for the High-level Dialogue;

"17. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Member States, and with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize events prior to the High-level Dialogue with a focus on its overall theme;

"18. *Notes* that the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women will consider the issue of international migration within their respective mandates by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invites their inputs through the Economic and Social Council;

"19. *Invites* appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the High-level Dialogue;

"20. *Takes note* of the submission to the Secretary-General of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration and looks forward to its consideration at the High-level Dialogue;

"21. *Reiterates* that the High-level Dialogue will result in a summary by the President of the General Assembly;

"22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the High-level Dialogue;

"23. *Recalls its request* to the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of resolution 59/241;

"24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled 'International migration and development'."

7. At its 37th meeting, on 15 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" (A/C.2/60/L.62) submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Juraj Koudelka (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.16.

8. Also at the 37th meeting, the Committee had before it a statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/60/L.70).

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland proposed an oral amendment to operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution by which the words "within existing resources;" would be added to the end of the paragraph.

10. At the 38th meeting, on 16 December, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications arising from the proposed oral amendment to operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.2/60//L.62.

11. Also at the 38th meeting, the Committee adopted the oral amendment to operative paragraph 7 by a recorded vote of 159 to 2, with one abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands,

Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Japan, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Israel.

12. Statements in explanation of vote were made before the vote by the representatives of the United States of America and Japan.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.62, as orally amended (see para. 15).

14. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.62, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.16 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

15. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Facilitation and reduction of the cost of transfer of migrant remittances

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004,

Acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and development and the need to deal with the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to countries of origin, destination and transit, and recognizing that migration brings benefits as well as challenges to the global community,

Recognizing that remittance flows constitute sources of private capital and that remittances have increased over time, complement domestic savings and are instrumental in improving the well-being of recipients,

Recognizing also that remittance flows constitute one of the important aspects of international migration and that they particularly benefit the households of migrants and could impact the economies of recipient countries,

Recognizing further that there is a need to address and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries, and the need to facilitate the potential of their productive use in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to do so,

Noting that, despite some recent initiatives to facilitate and to reduce the costs of remittances transfers, the costs incurred by migrants remain high and could be reduced,

Noting also the fact that many migrants without access to regular financial services may resort to informal means of transferring remittances,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of reducing the transfer costs of migrant remittances, facilitating their flow and, as appropriate, encouraging opportunities for development-oriented investment in recipient countries by beneficiaries that are willing and able to do so;

2. *Encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to consider adopting measures, in accordance with national legislation, that facilitate migrant remittance flows to recipient countries, including through, inter alia:

(a) Simplifying procedures and facilitating access to formal means of remittances transfers;

(b) Promoting access to, and awareness on the availability and use of, financial services for migrants;

3. *Invites* development partners and relevant international organizations to support developing countries in their capacity-building efforts to facilitate the flows of migrant remittances;

4. *Looks forward* to the High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on International Migration and Development to be held in 2006, which will offer an opportunity to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize their development benefits and minimize their negative impacts;

5. *Invites* interested countries to voluntarily convey to the Secretary-General information on their practices, initiatives and proposals in regard to the facilitation and the reduction of the cost of migrant remittances, in the context of the preparation of the Secretary-General's comprehensive overview for the High-level Dialogue.

Draft resolution II
International migration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/208 of 23 December 2003 and 59/241 of 22 December 2004,

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Decides* that the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will be held in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, and also decides that the High-level Dialogue will discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts;

2. *Invites* Member States to participate in the High-level Dialogue at the ministerial level or highest level possible;

3. *Decides* that the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, shall participate in the High-level Dialogue;

4. *Invites* those intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in the High-level Dialogue;

5. *Invites* relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to contribute to the preparation of, and participate in, the High-level Dialogue;

6. *Decides* that the participants in the High-level Dialogue will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

7. *Also decides* that the High-level Dialogue will consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive round tables, within existing resources;

8. *Further decides* that the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General will make introductory statements at the opening of the High-level Dialogue;

9. *Decides* that the round tables will be open to all Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, including its relevant special rapporteurs, and the International Organization for Migration, as well as to other relevant regional and international intergovernmental organizations that have observer status, and also decides that the round tables will be organized as follows:

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[1] Resolution 60/1.

[2] A/60/205.

(a) The first set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the afternoon of the first day of the High-level Dialogue;

(b) The second set of two interactive round tables will be held concurrently in the morning of the second day of the High-level Dialogue;

(c) Summaries of the deliberations of the four round-table sessions will be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round-table sessions during the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue;

10. *Also decides* that the themes for each of the four round tables will be the following:

(a) Round table 1 will focus on the effects of international migration on economic and social development;

(b) Round table 2 will focus on measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, and to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

(c) Round table 3 will focus on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including remittances;

(d) Round table 4 will focus on promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike;

11. *Further decides* to hold, within existing resources, one-day informal interactive hearings in 2006 with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, to be presided over by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President of the Assembly to prepare a summary of the hearings prior to the High-level Dialogue in September 2006;

12. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly will determine the list of invited participants and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector;

13. *Also decides* that representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping being selected during the informal interactive hearings, may also participate in each of the round tables of the High-level Dialogue, and that the President of the General Assembly will determine the list of such representatives, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, in consultation with Member States;

14. *Further decides* that arrangements concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector in the High-level Dialogue will in no way create a precedent for other meetings of the General Assembly;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to prepare a comprehensive overview of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of migration and development, including the effects of migration on economic and

social development in developed and developing countries, and on the effects of the movements of highly skilled migrant workers and those with advanced education;

16. *Invites* the Secretary-General to address also in his comprehensive overview in consultation with relevant United Nations organizations, short-term and seasonal workers within the issue of labour movements;

17. *Invites* the regional commissions to contribute to and coordinate dialogue at the regional level in preparation for the High-level Dialogue;

18. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, within existing resources, in consultation with Member States, and with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize prior to the High-level Dialogue up to two panel discussions with a focus on its overall theme;

19. *Notes* that the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women will have considered the issue of international migration within their respective mandates by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invites their inputs through the Economic and Social Council;

20. *Also notes* that the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families will have considered the issue of protecting the rights of all migrant workers as a tool to enhance development, within its mandate, by the time of the High-level Dialogue, and invites the Secretary-General to make the summary of the Committee's discussion available for the High-level Dialogue;

21. *Invites* appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the High-level Dialogue;

22. *Takes note* of the report of the Global Commission on International Migration, and notes its contribution to the debate on international migration and development, and also takes note of the report as an input for consideration at the High-level Dialogue;

23. *Reiterates* that the outcome of the High-level Dialogue will be a Chairperson's summary, which will be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other appropriate organizations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the High-level Dialogue;

25. *Recalls* its request to the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004;

26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled "International migration and development".

United Nations A/60/490/Add.4

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Agenda item 54 (d)

Globalization and interdependence: preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 54 (see A/60/490, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 30th and 36th meetings, on 15 November and 13 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.30 and 36).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.29 and A/C.2/60/L.54

2. At the 30th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin" (A/C.2/60/L.29), which read:

> *"The General Assembly,*
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> *"Recalling* its resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 56/186 of 21 December 2001, 57/244 of 20 December 2002 and 58/205 of 23 December 2003, and recalling also its resolution 59/242 of 22 December 2004 on

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preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin,

"*Recalling also* the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which underlined that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"*Emphasizing* the need for solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and the need to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of domestic administration and public spending and the rule of law, to ensure full respect for human rights, including the right to development, and to eradicate corruption and build sound economic and social institutions,

"*Recognizing* that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger, and economic and sustainable development,

"*Noting* the particular concern of developing countries and countries with economies in transition regarding the return of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption to the countries from which they originated, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular chapter V, in view of the importance that such assets can have to their sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* the concern over the transfer and/or transaction of assets of illicit origin, and stressing the need to address this concern consistent with the principles of chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

"*Expressing concern* that a significant portion of the money laundered annually, which ranges from 600 billion to 1.8 trillion United States dollars, involves funds derived from corruption, and in this regard reiterating its commitment to the fight against corruption at all levels,

"*Recognizing* that the illicit acquisition of wealth can be particularly damaging to democratic institutions, national economies and the rule of law,

"*Convinced* that a stable and transparent environment for national and international commercial transactions in all countries is essential for the mobilization of investment, finance, technology, skills and other important resources, and recognizing that effective efforts at all levels to combat and avoid corruption in all its forms in all countries are essential elements of an improved national and international business environment,

"*Concerned* about the links between corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime,

"*Reiterating* its concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and the values of democracy, ethical values and justice and

jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, in particular when an inadequate national and international response leads to impunity,

"*Recalling* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"1. *Condemns* corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin;

"2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"3. *Reaffirms* the commitment to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels, and welcomes all actions taken in this regard at the national and international levels, including the adoption of policies that emphasize accountability, transparent public sector management and corporate responsibility and accountability, including efforts to return assets transferred through corruption, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and urges all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying and implementing the Convention;

"4. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States that have enacted laws and taken other positive measures in the fight against corruption in all its forms including, inter alia, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not yet done so to enact such laws;

"5. *Encourages* all Governments to prevent, combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of illicitly acquired assets and to work for the prompt return of such assets through asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

"6. *Encourages* subregional and regional cooperation, where appropriate, in the efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

"7. *Calls for* further international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

"8. *Encourages* Member States to provide adequate financial and human resources to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and further encourages the Office to give high priority to technical cooperation, upon request, inter alia, to promote and facilitate the signing and ratification, acceptance, approval or accession and the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

"9. *Reiterates* its request to the international community to provide, inter alia, technical assistance to support national efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against

Corruption, particularly chapter V, and formulating strategies for mainstreaming and promoting transparency and integrity in both the public and the private sectors;

"10. *Urges* all Member States, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to abide by the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility and equality before the law and the need to safeguard integrity and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability and rejection of corruption;

"11. *Calls upon* the private sector, at both the international and the national levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, to remain fully engaged in the fight against corruption, welcomes the agreement to add anti-corruption as the tenth principle of the Global Compact, and emphasizes the need for all relevant stakeholders, including within the United Nations system, as appropriate, to continue to promote corporate responsibility and accountability;

"12. *Encourages* all Member States that have not yet done so to require financial institutions to properly implement comprehensive due diligence and vigilance programmes, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other applicable instruments, that could facilitate transparency and prevent the placement of illicitly acquired funds;

"13. *Also encourages* Member States to make adequate and regular voluntary contributions for the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is due to enter into force on 14 December 2005, through the Global Programme against Corruption of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and/or in direct support of implementation activities and initiatives;

"14. *Reiterates* its invitation to all competent regional economic integration organizations to implement fully the United Nations Convention against Corruption as soon as possible;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to elaborate further on the impact of corruption in all its forms, including on the scale of transfers of assets of illicit origin and the impact of corruption and such outflows on economic growth and sustainable development."

3. At its 36th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular, to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption" (A/C.2/60/L.54), which was submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Juraj Koudelka (Czech Republic), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.29.

4. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman orally corrected the text of the draft resolution.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.54, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, as well as Australia, Canada, Japan and Liechtenstein), Switzerland and the United States of America (see A/C.2/60/SR.36).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.29 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 56/186 of 21 December 2001 and 57/244 of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolutions 58/205 of 23 December 2003 and 59/242 of 22 December 2004 on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin,

Recalling also the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[1] in which it was underlined that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

Emphasizing the need for solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and the need to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of domestic administration and public spending and the rule of law, to ensure full respect for human rights, including the right to development, and to eradicate corruption and build sound economic and social institutions,

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger, and economic and sustainable development,

Noting the particular concern of developing countries and countries with economies in transition regarding the return of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption to the countries from which they originated, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[4] in particular chapter V, in view of the importance that such assets can have to their sustainable development,

Recognizing the concern about the transfer and/or transaction of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption, and stressing the need to address this concern

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[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

[4] Resolution 58/4, annex.

consistent with the principles of chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Recognizing also that the illicit acquisition of wealth can be particularly damaging to democratic institutions, national economies and the rule of law,

Convinced that a stable and transparent environment for national and international commercial transactions in all countries is essential for the mobilization of investment, finance, technology, skills and other important resources, and recognizing that effective efforts at all levels to prevent and combat corruption in all its forms in all countries are essential elements of an improved national and international business environment,

Concerned about the links between corruption in all its forms, including bribery, corruption-related money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime,

Reiterating its concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and the values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, in particular when an inadequate national and international response leads to impunity,

Welcoming the initiatives taken by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Group of Eight with regard to fighting corruption and improving transparency, including the initiative of the Group of Eight to support with bilateral technical assistance those countries committed to a partnership to increase transparency, good governance and the rule of law, and welcoming also the efforts of those Member States that have entered into "Compacts to Promote Transparency and Combat Corruption" with the Group of Eight,

1. *Condemns* corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

3. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 14 December 2005 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[4]

4. *Reiterates its invitation* to all Member States and competent regional economic integration organizations within the limits of their competence to ratify or accede to and fully implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption as soon as possible;

5. *Reaffirms* the commitment to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels, and welcomes all actions taken in this regard at the national and international levels, including the adoption of policies that emphasize accountability, transparent public sector management and corporate responsibility and accountability, including efforts to return assets transferred through corruption, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States that have enacted laws and taken other positive measures in the fight against corruption in all its forms including, inter alia, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

[5] A/60/157.

and in this regard encourages Member States that have not yet done so to enact such laws and to implement effective measures at the national level and, in accordance with domestic law and policies, at the local level, to prevent and combat corruption;

7. *Encourages* all Governments to prevent, combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of illicitly acquired assets, and to work for the prompt return of such assets through asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

8. *Further encourages* subregional and regional cooperation, where appropriate, in the efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

9. *Calls for* further international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

10. *Encourages* Member States to provide adequate financial and human resources to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including for the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and further encourages the Office to give high priority to technical cooperation, upon request, inter alia, to promote and facilitate the ratification, acceptance, approval of or accession to and the implementation of the Convention;

11. *Notes* the imminent finalization by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, of the legislative guide for the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the international community to provide, inter alia, technical assistance to support national efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V, and formulating strategies for mainstreaming and promoting transparency and integrity in both the public and the private sectors;

13. *Urges* all Member States, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to abide by the principles of proper management of public affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility and equality before the law and the need to safeguard integrity and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability and rejection of corruption;

14. *Welcomes the actions* by the private sector, at both the international and the national levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, to remain fully engaged in the fight against corruption, calls upon the private sector to continue to make efforts in this regard, takes note with appreciation of the work undertaken by the Global Compact in its consideration of its tenth principle, on anti-corruption, and emphasizes the need for all relevant stakeholders to continue to promote corporate responsibility and accountability;

15. *Encourages* all Member States that have not yet done so to require financial institutions to properly implement comprehensive due diligence and vigilance programmes, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other applicable instruments, that could facilitate transparency and prevent the placement of illicitly acquired funds;

16. *Also encourages* Member States, relevant international organizations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to give prominence to 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003;

17. *Expresses concern* about the magnitude of corruption at all levels, including the scale of the transfer of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption, and in this regard reiterates its commitment to preventing and combating corrupt practices at all levels;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to elaborate further on the magnitude of corruption at all levels, including the scale of the transfer of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption and the impact of corruption and such transfers on economic growth and sustainable development, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", a sub-item entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption".